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PRESS RELEASE

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**BALTIMORE'S FOREIGN-TRADE ZONE
RECEIVES APPROVAL FOR EXPANSION**
FTZ #74 NOW ENCOMPASSES 1,671 ACRES

Baltimore, MD (January 31, 2006) Baltimore's Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) #74, which offers import and export businesses significant cost saving opportunities that enhance their competitive edge in global markets, has received approval for a major expansion from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Foreign-Trade Zones Board.

With available space close to filled and the demand increasing, the Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC), agent for the FTZ, submitted an application on behalf of the City of Baltimore to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board requesting authority to reorganize and expand the current boundaries of FTZ #74 by designating 223 acres for the creation of three newly selected sites within the State of Maryland (100 acres in Anne Arundel County at Marley Neck Industrial Park, 91 acres at Enterprise Business Park in Harford County, and 32 acres re-assigned and added to Baltimore City at the Canton Trade Center). These three sites join 11 pre-existing Zone areas, bringing the total acreage of FTZ #74 to 1,671 acres.

The expansion of the Zone is an important factor in the continuing effort to retain and attract new and existing industry in the Greater Baltimore area, and helping to increase the flow of cargo through the Port of Baltimore and Baltimore/Washington Thurgood Marshall International Airport. Sites within the FTZ are industrially zoned and house Port-related activities, including facilities for warehousing, distribution, assembly, packaging and manufacturing.

Sites that compose FTZ #74 are: (1) Holabird Business Park (20 acres); (2) Point Breeze Business Center (127 acres); (3) Seagirt Marine Terminal (157 acres); (4) Dundalk Marine Terminal (312 acres); (5) Chesapeake Terminal and American Port Services Center (97 acres); (6) Atlantic and Fairfield Terminals (274 acres); (7) North and South Locust Point Terminals (196 acres); (8) Rukert and Clinton Street Marine Terminals (157 acres); (9) Belt's Business Center (15 acres); (10) Pulaski Business Park (81 acres); (11) Obrecht Business Center (12

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acres); (12) Canton Trade Center (32 acres); (13) Marley Neck Industrial Park–Anne Arundel County (100 acres); and (14) Enterprise Business Park–Harford County (91 acres). Currently, FTZ #74 has seven operators: Amports North, EcoAtlantic, Henry Bath, Inc., Pacorini Inc., Rukert Terminals, C. Steinweg Baltimore, Inc., and Titan Steel.

Commenting on the good news, BDC President M. J. “Jay” Brodie, whose agency has direct responsibility for operation of the Zone said, “Foreign-Trade Zone #74 has helped to increase trade with overseas markets and attracted additional foreign investment as the city and state develop the elements critical to being a global center of commerce.” He added, “FTZ activity has resulted in job retention and creation, additional business for the Port of Baltimore, and an increased tax base.”

The application to expand and reorganize the Zone was submitted in November 2004 and took over a year for processing with approval being granted at year’s end December 2005.

A Foreign-Trade Zones is a designated site licensed by the Foreign-Trade Zones Board at which special customs procedures may be used. Procedures allow domestic activity involving foreign items to take place prior to formal customs entry. Merchandise in a FTZ can be stored, tested, labeled, repackaged, manipulated, assembled, manufactured or processed. Duty-free treatment is accorded items that are re-exported and duty payment is deferred on items sold in the U.S. market, thus offsetting customs advantages available to overseas producers who compete with producers located in the United States.

Baltimore obtained authority to establish, operate and maintain FTZ #74 (originally composed of 60,000 square feet in 1982). Under BDC’s guidance and administration the FTZ has undergone, over the years, several expansions and modifications in order to accommodate the needs of specific companies.

With the FTZ proven to be very valuable in stimulating economic development activity for the City of Baltimore and State of Maryland, Baltimore’s application for the expansion of Foreign Trade-Zone #74 was strongly supported by the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, the Maryland Port Administration, U.S. Customs, and by the governments of Harford and Anne Arundel Counties.

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